

QUA - RAE

HERE IS NEWS OF THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE, INC.

VOL. II No. 7 SERVING TRI-STATE AMATEURS FOR 26 YEARS FEBRUARY, 1971

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - DAVE FLINN, W2CFP - JURN SCIENCE HALL - 8:00 PM
BUSINESS MEETING MARCH 4 AT RED CROSS

THE RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE, INC.
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OUR 26th YEAR OF SERVICE

***** RAE MINUTES *****
January 7, 1971

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM by President K3UPC.

Officers present: K3UPC, K3VXE, WA3KAI and WA3MAU.

Directors present: W3SN, W3KPM, W3WDK, WA3GIV, WA3HDK and K3VLP.

The minutes of the December 3rd meeting were read and approved.
The new treasury balance of \$519.86 was also approved by members.

CORRESPONDENCE: K3VXE read the following letters to members:

- (1) From the publisher of "Amateur Radio Service" requesting to be kept on the QUA-RAE mailing list.
- (2) From ARRL Assistant Communications Manager expressing her enjoyment in reading the QUA-RAE and her looking forward to receiving future issues.
- (3) From the editors of QST requesting the RAE to send them photographs of W3KT's visit to Erie for future showing in QST.
- (4) From Sentry Crystal Co. advising of new pricing discounts available after January 1, 1971.
- (5) From Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, declining his speaking invitation to the RAE because of other plans.

ACTIVITIES: K3VXE informed members of the following upcoming activities:

- (1) January 28th (Thursday) Mr. Ray Derr and Mr. Chuck Trimble will discuss local communications vital to the community.
- (2) February 6 and 7, RAE participation in ARRL DX Phone contest. W3KPM gave the RAE permission to use the EOC for the activity.
- (3) February 18th (Thursday), Mr. Dave Flinn, W2CFP, public relations director of EAST CARS will speak on the services of EAST CARS.
- (4) March ? Mr. Carl Smith, Professional Engineer from the Cleveland area will talk on antenna measurements.

K3VXE also reported that several more inquiries have been sent out for future speakers, however, nothing has been confirmed yet.

COMMITTEES: WA3HSR reported that the January QUA-RAE would be mailed next Monday. Mike also advised that once again 500 issues of the QUA-RAE would be mailed this month. There are about 75 new 1971 memberships on the books to date with 6 states being represented thus far.

K3VLP had nothing to report on the HAMFEST other than letters were now being prepared for mailing on doorprizes, etc. More on this later.

WA3GIV reported most of the equipment at the EOC is in good shape, however, the rotor and beam will need some work before using it in the DX Contest.

***** RAE MINUTES *****
(continued)

COMMITTEES (cont.):

W3KPM advised members of the tentative CD drive out this year on April 30th and May 1st, and that the schedule of events are to be the same as last years. WA3LSY and W3ZLO were given their RACES licenses by W3KPM.

K3VXE informed members of the AREC meeting following the RAE meeting to discuss plans for the 1971 SET.

W3ZLO reported that he is still having problems with the repeater, but hopes to have it on the air soon.

WA3HDK reported that the 1971 Auction tentatively set for April 17. No building has been secured to date. Any members with ideas are asked to come forth. K3VXE, K3VLP, WA3LSY and WA3KAI are to assist Bob on this activity. W3ZLO will provide the PA system.

K3VLP reported that the Red Cross is still trying to organize a 75 meter net. K3VLP and K3VXE are in the process of organizing the station equipment at Red Cross headquarters.

OLD BUSINESS: WA3GIV reported that his neighbor would set up the artwork for the new RAE letterhead, however, he recommended a local printer make the metal master plate for use with the RAE printing equipment.

WA3GIV advised that PARC has now established the 3rd Wednesday as their monthly meeting date.

WA3HSR reported the RAE post office box is paid up until June 30, 1971 and the bulk mailing permit is good for another 12 months.

K3VXE made a motion, "authorizing WA3HDK to purchase public liability insurance for the RAE as soon as possible and the Bob be given a maximum of \$100 to cover the annual premium. Over and above this amount, WA3HDK must report back to the membership for further instructions." This motion was seconded by WA3GIV, was voted on and carried.

NEW BUSINESS: WA3HDK moved that the "Amateru Radio Service Bulletin" be permanently added to the QUA-RAE mailing list for either exchanging of news bulletins or services. This motion was seconded by K3VLP, voted on and carried.

An announcement was made concerning the annual Metro-VHF Society meeting, Sunday January 17th at K3QAY's QTH. More information on this will be given on the six meter net and all those who wish to attend may do so.

K3VLP informed members of the plastic license plates available to members or others at \$1.15 each. There is no limit on printed matter to be put on these plates or the color. For more information, either contact K3VLP or WA3JIS.

K3VLP made a motion that a "committee be formed to rewrite the RAE's bylaws." This motion was seconded by K3VXE, was voted on and carried. WA3LSY, WA3HSR W3ZLO, the

RAE MINUTES (cont.)

Board of Directors and the Officers are to form this committee.

There were 19 members and 2 guests present at this meeting.

A motion for adjournment was made at 9:19 PM by W3KPM, seconded by WA3HSR, voted on and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Manross, WA3KAI

***** PROPAGATION REPORT *****
Condensed from CQ

The usual seasonal improvement on openings between the northern and southern hemispheres on bands between 10 and 160 meters should begin during early February and continue thru early April. Look for more frequent openings and stronger signals between the US and South America, Africa, Australia, Antarctica and parts of Asia. Fifteen meters should emerge as the top band for DX openings during the daylight hours with most areas of the world being covered. The band should remain open from shortly after sunrise to the early evening hours. The east-west paths openings on 10 meters should be fewer due to declining solar activity. DXers can look for some good north-south openings during the daylight hours between the hemispheres.

Twenty meters is expected to produce its peaks shortly after sunrise and again during the early evening. Openings to some areas of the world should also occur during hours of darkness. DX openings on the forty meter band should produce strong signal levels throughout the hours of darkness until shortly after sunrise. Poorer DX propagation on both 80 and 160 meters should be the result of seasonal increases in static levels. DX openings, if they occur, will be during darkness and coinciding periods of low static.

Some F-layer 6 meter openings between the US and points south may occur during the noon and post noon hours in February. Trans-equatorial (TE) scatter is likely on 6 between the hours of 8 and 11 PM, local time. Short skip openings due to Auroral displays may result in an increased number of openings ranging from a few hundred to 1300 miles on both 6 and 2 meters. It may be pointed out that while these auroral displays result in improved conditions for the VHF bands, they often occur along with disrupted periods of propagation on the HF bands. Few, if any, Sporadic-E openings are expected in February and no significant meteor showers are likely to occur.

***** SSB *****

FOR SALE:

HQ-145 receiver
300 watt final with modulator (pair of 8000'S)
DX-35 (used for exciter)
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838-3117 evenings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEB QWCA QSO PARTY NETS 14	WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY ? 15	16	17	DAVE FLINN W2CFP AT ZURN HALL 8:00 PM 18	19	ARRL DX CW 20
ARRL DX CW NETS 21	GEORGE'S REAL DAY 22	23	24	25	26	FRENCH PHONE TEST YL-OM FONE TEST 27
28	MARCH 1	2	3	RAE BUSINESS 4	5	RAE IN ARRL PHONE DX TEST 6
ARRL DX PHONE TEST NETS 7	8	9	10	11	12	YL-OMCW TEST 13
LEEN 29.150 TRI-STATE 50.52 NETS 14	15	16	17	RAE ACTIVITIES 18	19	ARRL DX CW 20

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1971

The month of February will bring a variety of activities to all area hams. The RAE participation in the ARRL DX Contests will give everyone a chance to get some experience in DX operating. Plans to continue operation during the CW portion of the contest are now in progress. Contact the RAE if you would like to help out. The next phone weekend is March 6 and 7. The Invader 2000 at the EOC will again be used along with a 4 element wide-spaced beam on 10 meters. Come on out and join in the fun. You'll also be helping the club to qualify for a certificate issued to participating affiliated clubs.

February 18 promises to be the highlight of the months activities. Dave Flinn, W2CFP, Public Relations Director for EAST CARS will be in town to speak to interested hams about the service nets. The meeting will take place at Zurn Science Hall of Gannon College. It is located within easy walking distance of the Red Cross building. Its location at 7th and 8th on Sassafras also offers parking in the lot on 9th St. Entry to the hall can be made from either 7th or 8th. Dave has spoken before hundreds of hams at various functions across the country. His talk on the service nets proves to be one of the most entertaining and informative of its kind. For a preview, Dave will appear on WICU-TV at 9:30 AM on Thursday. Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served. Don't forget to attend this meeting! This is Dave's first visit to Erie and we want it to be a memorable one. Why not also listen in to the service nets. EAST CARS on 7.255 and MID WARS on 7.258 MHz.

TECH TALK : Troubleshooting a faulty antenna system

The weakest link in most amateur stations is the antenna system. Since they do not usually come neatly pre-packaged, fully-assembled, and ready to plug into the rig, the chance of error in assembling and/or building them becomes larger. This is why the amateur should know what to look for in case of trouble.

I'll deal with three simple antennas: the dipole, the inverted vee, and the ground plane, since these are usually the antennas that the beginner uses. He can then apply his experiences to more sophisticated antennas later.

The first hint of trouble in an antenna system is a high VSWR. By high is usually meant over 3 to 1, but many transmitters will not load well even with a 2 to 1 SWR.

At the frequency that a dipole is cut for, an SWR of 1.5 to 1 should be attainable using standard 52 ohm coax. This is because the input impedance of the dipole is in the vicinity of 75 ohms allowing a 1.5 to 1 mismatch. If 75 ohm cable is used, such as RG 9 or RG 59, a 75 ohm VSWR bridge would indicate 1 to 1 at the cut frequency.

An inverted vee on the other hand has a feed impedance close to 50 ohms, therefore 50 ohm coax should give close to a 1 to 1 SWR. If the dipole or inverted vee has a higher SWR than it should at the operating frequency, it is usually because the legs are either too long or too short. This is possible even if the legs are measured exactly, because of nearby objects and unaccounted for end-effects. To find out if the legs need to be lengthened or shortened, it is only necessary to tune up on two different frequencies in the band with as much separation as possible and compare SWR's. If the SWR is lower on the higher frequency, the antenna should be lengthened. If the SWR is higher on the higher frequency, the antenna should be shortened. Cut and try is the best method here, adding a few feet to each end if the antenna needs to be lengthened, and then shortening after that if necessary. To shorten a too-long antenna, prune a few inches at a time and compare SWR's.

The ground-plane antenna does not rely as much on changing the lengths of the elements as changing the geometry of them with respect to the horizontal. The impedance at the feed point of the ground plane is usually in the vicinity of 30 ohms. Oftentimes it is even lower. To increase it in order to match 50 ohm coax, it is necessary to angle the radials down approximately 30 degrees off horizontal. This has been known to add up to two S units to a received signal and a comparable difference in field strength of the transmitted signal.

The field strength meter is the final word in tuning an antenna system. Irrespective of the SWR, tune the antenna for maximum field strength if possible. In most cases it will co-incide with the minimum SWR, but don't be surprised if it doesn't. An antenna system will be most efficient when its input impedance is a pure resistance. If it is other than the feed line impedance, it is possible to have standing waves on the line and still have better field strength than pruning to a SWR of 1 to 1. This is because the antenna will no longer be resonant, and therefore not accept as much power to radiate.

If you run into more difficult problems, there is much material written on the subject, and if you have the time to dig, you can probably find your exact problem solved in print. However, it is usually just as easy to ask a more experienced ham who has probably ran up against the same problem at one time or another.

REPEAT-REPEAT-REPEAT-REPEATER: The Care and Feeding of Channel A

The long-awaited Erie repeater has been on the air for over three weeks as of this printing. Under the call of W3ZLO, it is presently controlled by Chuck Smith and located at his house, across the street from the City Police tower on Arlington Rd. The input frequency is 146.34 and the output 146.94. The receiver is a Transistorized G.E. Progress Line (TPL) and the transmitter is a transistorized Motorola (except for the final) running 12.5 watts output. Receiving antenna is a ground plane above his house, and the transmitting antenna is a homebuilt coaxial collinear running up the side of his house. Coverage with this preliminary setup has been excellent with very good coverage within the city, and very good to marginal coverage within a 15 mile radius. The signals are strongest along the lake, where full advantage of the height of the site is realized. Coverage has extended to Conneaut on the west, North East, on the east, and Edinboro on the south. Future plans call for moving the antennas to the police tower, and setting up an auxiliary input-output channel using higher power and directional antennas for at least full county coverage.

The repeater is controlled either directly, or by a unique servo mechanism which would take too much space to explain here. It has a three-minute time-out, which automatically shuts down the transmitter if it is keyed for over three minutes. A taped voice ID is used which cues up every three minutes once it is triggered by the COR. (Carrier Operated Relay.) Provision for tone controls is also included.

The repeater is "open", that is, no access tones are needed to be able to communicate through it. To use the repeater, it is only necessary to be able to transmit on 34, and receive on 94. Key the transmitter for a second on 34, and listen for the voice ID or squelch trail (delayed approximately 2 seconds) on 94. You then may call your station using the format W3Axx this is W3AYY through W3ZLO at 1615. It is not necessary to repeat the call signs again unless a station signs out, enters, or 10 minutes elapses. The repeater transmissions will be interrupted every 3 minutes with a voice ID. When signing in and out, always give the time so that the log will have the record. Eventually, an automatic time track will be built into the tape logging system. Have fun using the repeater... we aim to please you!

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LAST MINUTE BULLETINS—

Members of the K8CR Ashtabula Repeater Group will meet with the VHF Repeater Committee at the March 4th meeting of the RAE at the Red Cross building. The two groups will be discussing compatible frequencies of operation among other topics.

The clandestine 19-79 repeater, WA3KUV, has been located (at least its transmitter) by a transmitter hunting party headed by W3ZLO, K3VXE, W3AQY (Mac MacIvor) and K3QAY (Brownie). The transmitter was traced to the vicinity of 35th and State Sts., probably on the WICU tower. No UHF antennas were visible, indicating either a single-site repeater, use of the old WICU transmitting antennas for the UHF link, or a site near to, if not on, the tower.

\*\*\*\*\* STRAYS \*\*\*\*\*  
de QUA-RAE Staff

- WA3MKT Rick will soon be leaving the Erie group for exercises with the US Air Force. We all wish Rick the best and thank him for his help over the years.
- WA3GIV Fred reports making some contacts of over 100 miles through some repeaters in Texas. Fred had 2 M-FM in the mobile on his recent trip.
- WA3DJT Jack's XYL, Betty is struggling to put together her HW-16 transceiver. Jack remains steadfast in offering only advisory assistance.
- K3AER Paul recently gave the RAE some excellent tips on county expeditions and the awarding of certificates by the club. Thanks for the help, Paul. K3AER is sometimes NCS for the "Independent County Hunters Net" at 3930 KHz.
- K3VXE Ron, QUA-RAE co-editor and RAE VP, was recently commissioned into the US Army. Ron has been active for many years at Gannon College ROTC and will leave for duty in April.
- WA3GUL Rick, a student at Behrend from Bethlehem, Pa., recently qualified for 5BWAS #38. Congrats to a fine operator . . . next 5BDXCC # ?
- W8BKM "Gross", retired from the Railroad spends 4 to 8 hours daily on CW, all bands and loves it. Gross who is QCWA, OOTC and AWA first started on ham radio back in 1919 when Kenny Lloyd, W3QN was 8VH.
- WA3KFX Doug, son to W3NGI, was recently accepted at DeVry Institute in Columbus, Ohio. Best wishes to Doug who is certainly a "chip off the old block" of Frank.
- W8GR Eli is making so much loot selling real estate and insurance, that he doesn't find much time to ham it up.
- WA3GJH Joe passed the test as NCS on LEEN during January. Look for WA3HSR in the hot seat next month (Feb). Mike will probably operate W3GV.
- K3NAU Chuck, home on leave, took some time to introduce YL Judy to ham radio while laughing it up with some of the locals.
- W3ZLO Congrats to Chuck and the entire crew that helped get the 2 M-FM repeater on the air. Check 146.34-146.94 with wide coverage from W3ZLO's QTH.
- W8LAC Walt is busy working at Astatic Corp. and DXing on 10 meters. He just put up a new Hustler 4BTV Vertical for 10-15-20. Walt looks forward to retirement in 2 years.
- W3AQY Mac has been checking into the six meter net trying to burn to cob webs out of his gear. Why not try it a little more often Mac?
- K3QAY Brownie finished in great style as NCS on Tri-State Net on six. Watch for W3HLM to have a go at it in February.
- WA3HCR Jerry has been a regular check-in from North East on LEEN.



**STRAYS**  
(continued)

K3PWH - Craig is doing his best to put 10 meter AM in the McDARC. The ops at McDowell also for the help during the hospital drill of SET. Craig made a trip to Fairview in the mobile to help.

WA3MAU - Thanks are in store for Joe who came in to set up a station at St. Vincent hospital during SET through all the snow and drifts.

WA3HDK - Hats off to Bob for giving all a lesson in traffic handling during the SET on the six meter net. Bob has gained much of his experience through Army MARS.

WA3HPG - John is breaking the repeater from his Fairview QTH. Not bad with the repeater antenna on the ground.

WABWC - Marty is home off the lakes where he works as a Wheelman. While getting over his seasickness, Marty works 6 meters on the ship and at home as well.

W3SN - Thanks to Bart, much of the traffic originated during SET was passed into the NTS through the WPA 24 Net. He and Leo, W3LOC are frequent check-ins.

W3BBB - John lost some shingles off the roof from a recent windstorm, but the trusty beam and tower came through.

W3TAM - Bert is from shooting his rotor after the wind and ice got to it. Maybe you should just shoot it and put it out of its misery, Bert!

WA3OOT - Ed has become an active 10 meter mobile recently. Don't forget the renewal of those transmitter hunts in March Ed.

WA3LTB - Terry has been radiating a fine signal on 10 from his QTH in Lake City.

K3HFL - Bud is thinking of getting active again. Bud has always worked to help youngsters out who are just starting into ham radio.

W3JTF - Larry's sincere efforts on 6 meters from the mobile helped out greatly in SET.

WA3LSY - If not for Rick's printing experience, the January QUA-RAE would have been later than this one.

NCARC - The RAE welcomes news bulletin exchange with the North Chautauqua Amateur Radio Club of Dunkirk, New York. The NCARC boys are also building a repeater there.

\*\*\*\*\*  
-SSB-

**FOR SALE:** Heathkit DX-60, HR-10B and HG-10 VFO with built-in pwr supply. All in gud condx. Call - WA3LCO at 864-3891 after 8 PM - Ask for Floyd

Central Electronics 100-V TX. Like new! With LSB, USB, DSB, LSC, USC, AM, FM, CW and FSK styles of emissions. Complete with Solid State rectifier. Cost \$795. WILL SELL FOR ONLY \$400.!!!

CALL or WRITE: W.C. Gross, W8BKM; 113 Edgewood Dr.; Conneaut, Ohio 44030  
Phone 216-593-3275.

\*\*\*\*\* STRAYS \*\*\*\*\*  
(continued)

W3KPM Tom is busy trying to get a 2 M-FM rig going at the EOC. The 80-D there has not been able to hit the repeater successfully. Some tuned antennas are now in the planning stages.

WA3ANA We welcome Woody as another 1971 RAE member. Membership now totals over 100.

WA0SHE Cleo, worked successfully by the RAE County Expeditions has qualified for her worked all 3079 counties award. Any county hunters reading the QUA-RAE?

WA3KMF Denny hasn't been too active lately - - must be those YLs again.

WA3HRH Doug is looking foreward to some more activity after he gets settled down in his new schedule at Behrend.

K3AXB Dan, Biology prof at Edinboro is looking foreward to starting an amateur radio club at the college. Behrend seems ahead of Edinboro in that field.

W3YWL Doc has been doing a fantastic job with his Yaesu rig. Several other locals are thinking of buying one. Why not give Doc a call.

WA3KUV Any reports on this rare catch ?

WA3LKR Brad is still looking for a decent General rig. He's been custodian of McDARC Duo-bander on weekends and vacations.

WA3MOP Station at Erie General Electric was on during SET capably operated by Lou, WA3DPI.

W3PIX Dick is looking foreward to beating his last years score during the ARRL DX Phone contest this year. Dick is an active participant in all DX Contests.

K3VLP George is said to be recovered from his surgery and looking foreward to some pole climbing on Field Day.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO "STRAYS" ARE WELCOMED BY THE "QUA-RAE" AND ITS STAFF.

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1971 RAE MEMBERSHIP BLANK

ENCLOSED IS \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP(S) TO THE RAE FOR 1971, AT \$1.50 EACH.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

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WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE THE RAE TO SPONSER \_\_\_\_\_

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES.

SEND TO: RADIO ASSOCIATION OF ERIE, INC. ; PO BOX 844 ; ERIE, PA. 16512.

## VHF NEWS

At the yearly meeting of the Metropolitan VHF Society, at Brownie's (K3QAY) house on January 24, an attempt was made to streamline the club. The separate offices for Treasurer, Activities Chairman, Field Day Chairman and Picnic Chairman were eliminated. The new office of Secretary-Treasurer was created and the club chairman/net manager was given the responsibility to take care of activities.

Chuck Lewis, K3ATZ was elected Chairman/Net Manager, and Joe Metz, WA3MAU, Secretary-Treasurer. Myron Powers, W3ALD, was re-elected Chairman of the TVI Committee. Brownie, K3QAY, was elected for a three-year term to the TVI Committee.

W3ZLO, the Erie Repeater, is now on the air 24 hours a day. More information on this repeater appears in another article elsewhere in this month's QUA-RAE.

Without consulting the rest of the VHF-FM operators in the area, Barry Capell, WA3GSH, has licensed a repeater under the call WA3KUV. Although reported operational for two months in the Sunday Times-News Amateur Radio News Column of February 7, it was first heard testing January 22-23. The CW I. D. was first tested Sunday February 7. Tuesday, February 9, when two local amateurs attempted to operate through it. A signal on 146.19, its input, produced only a continuous CW I. D. on 146.79, the output frequency. Upon repeated attempts to pass audio through the repeater, they were told by another station that the repeater was not operational yet, and that an audio link between the receiver output and the transmitter input had not been installed yet.

Many amateur 2-meter FM enthusiasts are infuriated at the secrecy behind this repeater. The frequencies 19-79 were assigned to Erie by the Southern Ontario and Western New York Repeater Advisory Council as a non-interfering high-power channel. The VHF Repeater Committee of the RAE has been the sole representative of the Erie area at the last two meetings of the Council at Grimsby, Ontario, and has plans for a 19-79 repeater which would be linked-up with the 34-94 repeater already in operation.

## THE SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST: Looking Back

It is not easy to look back on the SET of last month and critique it. The 6-meter net was about the strongest link in the whole drill, with the most number of amateurs participating. Bob Bair, WA3HDK, acted as net control from W3ENP, the Red Cross Station, and kept the net busy with instruction in traffic handling. The 10-meter net, controlled by K3KRA, Gary Kostek, had a very disappointing number of check-ins, about 3 or 4 at most at any one time. The net was run open, with a general call given out at intervals ranging from 15 to 45 minutes. Liason into the National Traffic Service from 6 was Bart Geer, W3SN, who handled about a half-dozen messages originated from the net. Ron Jakubowski, K3VXE, at the EOC, handled about 5 messages from the staff at the EOC onto the Pennsylvania Emergency Phone Net. No national messages were originated on the 10-meter net.

Mobiles active included Larry Herman, W3JTF, and Brownie, K3QAY, on 6; Ed, WA3OOT, Craig Hill, K3PLV, K3VXE, and Rick Robashaw, WA3LSY, on 10; and WA3GIV, Fred Tate, WA3GSH, Barry Capell, and K3VXE on 2 FM.

The Erie County Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was staffed by Tom Schwab, W3KPM, Mike Hall, WA3HSR, WA3LSY, and K3VXE. Red Cross was manned by WA3HDK



## SET, Cont.

and K3VLP, George Dickey. All in all a good communications system was set up. Mobile stations were out, despite the weather. All that was lacking was a sense of direction.

The Emergency Coordinator, WA3GSH, did not appear actively on the scene until around 2:30 PM. Since the drill was supposed to have started around noon, many hams lost interest and checked out of the nets by this time. There was simulated emergency situation given, and no mobile drill took place as planned.

WA3GSH met with K3VXE at his house the Tuesday before the SET to map out final plans. Prior to this, he met with interested members of the RAE at their January 7th business meeting. Plans were finalized for a snow-emergency type of drill with mobiles patrolling Interstate 90 and Interstate 79. Two 6-meter mobiles were to be dispatched to I-90, and another two to I-79. Four packets of traffic, each containing 13 messages were prepared by K3VXE and delivered to WA3GSH.

However, due to lack of follow-through, none of these messages were delivered by mobiles as planned. Neither net-control stations were given any briefing or information as to the simulated situation at hand. And no message was sent to W3KPJ, the SEC, that he could forward to the SCM about the simulated situation in Erie County. All in all, despite intensive planning, there was no coordination or leadership shown by the EC. Thus, the SET was less than successful, despite the adequate communications links.

## THE FINAL FINAL

The months of January and February have been the most active for organized communications in a long time. Starting with the practice traffic drills on the 6 and 10 meter nets, and continuing with the SET and the ARRL DX-Phone competition. The RAE, as a club, has participated in all these activities as a service to the members who are interested. We will continue to participate in these activities as the interest warrants. Already there are plans to enter the ARRL DX CW contest.

The function of an Amateur Radio Club of any kind is to bring the amateurs of an area together so they can better understand one-another and benefit one another by exchanging experiences, hints and kinks, etc. The RAE accomplishes this by offering varied activities besides the monthly program meeting. Operating activities such as SET and the DX contests allow the hams to work together as a group, as well as operate with powers, bands, and modes not available at the home station. Committee activities such as the VHF repeater, Hamfest, Auction, Equipment maintenance and Newsletter allow members with varied interests to diversify, and at the same time in most cases, benefit the whole club as a group.

Thus, the RAE has as its goal to serve all the members of the Amateur Radio Fraternity in the area, promoting the brotherhood of our hobby. It is therefore imperative that the RAE vehemently oppose any attempt at polarization of the amateur community. This is not to say that we oppose competition. Friendly competition is desirable, if not necessary, to spark enthusiasm and pride in one's organization. But it is uncalled for to bring personal vengeance into this competition. It is also uncalled for to promulgate derogatory insinuations, half-truths, and out-and-out lies, and call this competition. The RAE welcomes any friendly competition, as long as it serves to bring the amateur brotherhood closer together. And this is my primary goal as activities officer of the RAE-- to bring the amateur brotherhood closer together.

AR DE K3VXE, Ronald Jakubowski, VICE PRESIDENT, RAE, INC.  
SK